

**Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday October 9, 2013
Crown Roller Mill**

Unapproved Minutes

Commissioners Present: Marcia Mariani, Saciido Shaie, Kenya McKnight, Jeff Strand,

Staff Present: Howard Blin

Tessa Wetjen called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

Agenda

1. City Funding for Neighborhood and Community Organizations

Blin presented information on the funding sources for programs administered by the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. The Consolidated Tax Increment Financing District is the source of funding for the Community Participation Program and the proposed Community Innovation Fund (CIF). Money allocated for the One Minneapolis Fund comes from the City's General Fund.

Commissioners made the following comments:

- The commission should look at ways to increase funding for the One Minneapolis Fund from the current \$62,000. The Committee discussed the continuing budget process and the appropriate amount to request from the Council.
- It may be difficult to ask for an increase in funding without a full year of experience with the program.

2. Community Innovation Fund.

- Neighborhood organizations do not do all the work in many communities. In some areas residents turn to community and cultural organizations first since they often provide services.
- The CIF should be used to broaden inclusion in neighborhood organizations.
- Neighborhood organizations are valuable, but they must be more accountable for the funding they receive.

- It was noted that current funding levels for neighborhood organizations are inadequate to do more than “keep the lights on” in neighborhood organizations. The limited resources decrease involvement in neighborhood organizations by residents.
- It was discussed whether the CIF should provide \$300,000 in funding every two years or \$150,000 annually.
- It was suggested that to receive CIF funding, neighborhood organizations partner with unsuccessful applicants to the 2013 One Minneapolis Program on projects which did not receive funding.

The following recommendations on the CIF should be presented to the full NCEC at the October 22nd meeting:

- 1) The Program should begin in 2014 with the roll out of the program generally following the schedule proposed by staff.
- 2) There should be early consultation with neighborhood organizations regarding the structure of the program. To start this process the NCEC should hold four focus groups throughout the city, one for every two NCEC Districts. At least one month advance notice should be provided for these meetings.
- 3) The final guidelines should be available for a 60 day public review before they are finalized by the NCEC and presented to the City Council.
- 4) Achieving geographical balance throughout the city in should be a consideration in selecting projects for funding.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Howard Blin